

Pleasant RidgeElementary



Gifted and Talented Academy

Glenn Cook
Principal

Bridgette Best
Dan Barber
Assistant Principal

1260 Floyd Ln, Gastonia, NC
(704) 866-6096

“One School, One family”

Pleasant Ridge is a school designed to serve the Gifted and Talented Academy as well as the community. Our school started with 400 students that grew to 600 when the nearby school, Forest Heights closed. We welcomed those students to our family. Gaston county built a new facility to hold over 900 students, including the Gifted and Talented Academy in 2017. We serve students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Each hallway at Pleasant Ridge is given a street name appropriate to the developmental level. Our kindergarten and first grade hallway is named Collaboration Circle. In these grades, our teachers work on those skills with students for collaborating with their peers. Second grade is Determination

Drive. We help those students to develop determination and perseverance in achieving academic and personal goals. Third and fourth grade hallway is Accountability Avenue since that is the beginning of the testing accountability state tests. Fifth grade hallway is Leadership Lane. They are the leaders of the school and have the opportunity to serve the school in the library and our safety patrol.



School Leadership

Principal: Glenn Cook
Assistant Principal (K-2): Dan Barber
Assistant Principal (3-5): Bridgette Best
Lead AIG Teacher: Robin Melton
Content Teachers:
K-1: Carrie Lindquist
2-3: Karen Schieres
4-5: Amanda Psarianos

Being a *Gifted and Talented* Academy

Pleasant Ridge works closely with the National Paideia Center from Asheville. This is our third year of using Paideia in our Gifted and Talented classes. A Paideia seminar cycle includes launch activities that challenge their personal thought processes, analyzing a text and completing a writing opportunity. The seminar allows students to think and process what others understand from a text through discussion of open ended questions.

Academics

Pleasant Ridge follows Gaston County Pacing Guides to teach the state's Standard Course of Study. The teachers in the Gifted and Talented Academy are AIG certified. Those teachers are able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the students and accelerate and differentiate the curriculum to challenge them at their level. They use small group instruction to meet their needs, whether it is enrichment or remediation. Small groups are used in reading, math and word study. Using pretest data, teachers are able to enrich the curriculum with activities or projects that add depth to students' understanding.

Grading Scale

A = 90–100
B = 80–89
C = 70–79
D = 60–69
F = 59-below

Pleasant Ridge Jr. Beta Club Requirements

For initial placement in Jr. Beta Club, no yearly grade average below a 90%.

For continuation in the Jr. Beta Club, no grades below 80 on report cards.

No more than one probationary period per year.

Two probationary periods warrant removal (consecutive or not).

Induction ceremonies are to be held at the end of the 3rd nine weeks grading period.

No conduct rating of "unsatisfactory".

Enrichment Clusters

What are Enrichment Clusters? Enrichment clusters are groups of students who share common interests that come together each week during specifically designated time blocks to produce a product, performance, or targeted service based on that common interest. Without these opportunities, some children would never get to learn about their interest areas!

Why do we have enrichment Clusters? It creates a special time for schoolwide enrichment ensuring all staff and all students are involved in Enrichment Learning and Teaching and high end learning. They are interest and strength based with a student focus. It creates a sense of community and makes the school seem smaller. They recognize all kids for what they can do, not what they can't.

Are there guidelines for Enrichment Clusters? Cluster activity should be directed toward making a product, performance, or service for an authentic audience. All skills learned/practiced/used during clusters, ie. thinking processes, development of leadership, inter-intrapersonal skills, organization, time management is relevant and has value. They allow students and teachers to select the clusters in which they wish to participate. We group students across grade levels by interest areas. (K-2 and 3-5). The clusters do not use predetermined unit or lesson plans. Enrichment Clusters have guidelines and start up activities. They aren't a minicourse on a topic. These are student centered. Although they are hands on, it doesn't mean brains are off. The Enrichment Clusters provide opportunities to develop multiple talents within an enrichment cluster through division of labor.

2019-20 Enrichment Clusters

Sewing Simple and Sew Much Fun, Tumbling, Panther SWAG (Steppers With a Groove), Rocking Panthers Band, Spanish Culture and Dance, Science Wonders, Sign Language, Scrapbooking, Arts, Panther Bucket Drumming, German Puppets, Robotics, Code Your Art, Scavenger Hunts, Move and Groove Cheer and Dance, Yoga